

***Bureau of Developmental Services
Bureau of Student Support***

***Transition from Special Education
to the Adult Developmental Services System
A Refresher and Discussion of
the He-M 503 Rule Revision
February, 2020***



Introductions - Contributors

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DHHS and DOE Partnership

- It is the intention of Leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Education (DOE) to ensure that individuals with disabilities that are exiting the school system are prepared to enter their communities as adults with the appropriate supports in place.
- Transition planning is critical to ensure that supports are available to an individual upon exiting the school system.
- It is understood by both Departments that collaboration between DOE and DHHS is essential to ensure that local school districts and area agencies have a clear understanding of how transition planning is defined and implemented.
- The Interagency Agreement is in place to define roles and collaborative efforts, and is being revised to ensure an ongoing partnership between the two agencies.



Transition Planning

- Area agency service coordinators should be engaged in transition planning with schools as early as possible so that whenever an individual transitions from school to Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) services, the transition can be as seamless as possible.
- Schools should be graduating or exiting individuals into the adult service system with intentional, longitudinal planning, projected timeline and in cooperation with their local area agency service coordination staff.
- Schools shouldn't be graduating or exiting individuals early to get them into another service delivery system.
- Transition planning is essential and requires collaboration between the Area Agency and local School District to ensure that services are available once a student exits the school system. Transition planning should be in place a minimum of one year to ensure that services are in place.



Transition – School Perspective

Federal Compliance Indicator 13

Youth ages 16 and above, with an Individual Education Program (IEP) that includes:

- **Age-appropriate transition assessment(s)** directly relating to the Measurable Post-Secondary Goals evidencing an annual process relating results to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills.
- **Appropriate Measureable Post-Secondary Goals** that are updated annually.
- **Transition Services** that will reasonably enable students to meet their post-secondary goals.



Transition – School Perspective

Continued

- **Course of study** starting at age 14 based on New Hampshire Rule, *ED1109.01(10)*.
- **Measurable Annual IEP Goals** with at least one linked to an identified Transition Service need.
- **Student Invitation** that does not contain parent focused language.
- **Participating Agency Invitation** if applicable. A signed release of records is required if an outside agency is invited by the IEP Team.



Transition Planning is a process and...

- provides a continuous cycle of exploration.
- creates an opportunity for self-discovery.
- is intended to prepare students to transition from school activities to activities upon school exit.
- provides a framework to assist IEP Teams, including families, as they consider resources or supports necessary for students to reach their post-secondary goals including area agencies and vocational rehabilitation



Transition Planning improves outcomes by...

- teaching self-help, advocacy, and life skills needed to live independently.
- providing instruction and practice for skills needed to gain employment.
- facilitating connections with area agencies.
- preparing students to access post-secondary education and training programs.



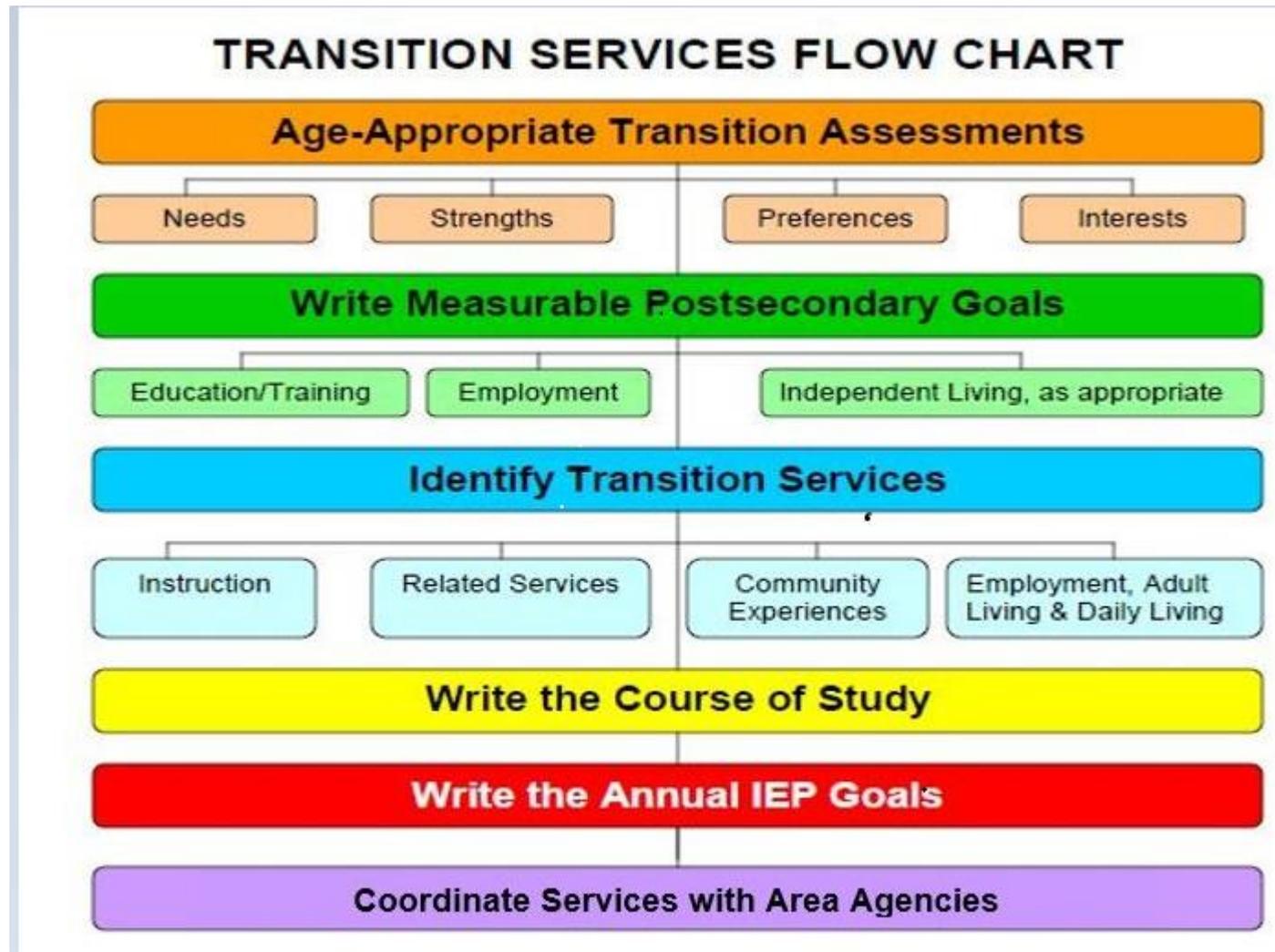
Transition Planning improves outcomes by...

(Continued)

- serving as a motivator for students. (For those who may be continuing their high school experience until age 21, students can see that the later years of their education may include community based learning, job opportunities or possibly classes at a local community college).
- including courses that match students interests and preferences while preparing them for post-secondary opportunities.



Transition Flow Chart



TRANSITION SERVICES

as defined in 34 *CFR* 300.43

A coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability designed to be a results-oriented process focused on improving the academic and functional achievement and facilitating the movement from school to post-school activities (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation.

- Transition Services are the skills, experiences, activities, opportunities and connections necessary to meet the post-secondary goals.
- **Transition Services are not annual goals, short term objectives or benchmarks.**



TRANSITION SERVICES

as defined in 34 *CFR 300.43 (continued)*

- In order to develop meaningful transition services, IEP teams need to think of the activities that can occur during the current IEP period that will assist the student in meeting the post-secondary goals.
- Transition Services (activities) need to be individualized and are based on the needs associated with a student meeting the measurable post-secondary goals.



Transition services shall be based on a student's individual needs, taking into account preferences and interests, and includes:

- Instruction
- Related services (activities/connections needed to prepare students to address their support needs after high school)
- Community experiences
- The development of employment and
- Other post-school adult living objectives in collaboration with an area agency

And, if appropriate:

- Acquisition of daily living skills
- Functional vocational evaluation



When determining necessary Transition Services think about...

What would anyone who wanted to be/do (insert their post secondary goal) need to...

- be able to do?
- have for skills?
- have for abilities?
- know how to do?
- have accomplished?
- have for education or training?
- enjoy doing?



Possible Transition Services

- Independent Living skills training
- Specialized instruction: self-advocacy, time management, relaxation techniques
- Research accommodations in postsecondary settings
- Learn to maintain a budget
- Evaluate available assistive technology for current & future use
- Draft resume, complete sample job applications
- Participate in career exploration activities
- Vocational Rehabilitation Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)



Other Agency Representatives at IEP Team Meetings

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- If an outside agency (local area agencies, community mental health centers, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)) is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for the transition services in the student's IEP, then representatives from the agency **must be invited** to participate at the IEP Team meeting.
- *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* requires the consent (release of records), of the parents or the student who has reached the age of majority under State law, to invite other agency representatives to participate in the meeting.
- If a participating agency, other than a public agency, fails to provide the transition services described in the student's IEP, the public agency must reconvene the IEP Team to identify alternative strategies to meet the transition objectives for the student. 34 CFR 300.324(c)



Contact Information

DOE Bureau of Student Support

https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/staff.htm

Superintendent Contact List

<http://my.doe.nh.gov/Profiles/PublicReports/PublicReports.aspx?ReportName=SupList>



Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

- VR engages with students as young as 14 years old
- Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- VR should be invited to IEP meetings where employment and career goals are discussed.
- Work based learning, internships and summer jobs can be coordinated to assist in job development.
- Presentation on career pathways for the State of NH is a focus of VR.
 - Healthcare, Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Hospitality and Construction
- Students can participate in group workshops or 1:1



Area Agency Service Provision

All developmental services offered are provided by contractual agreement between Bureau of Developmental Services and ten state designated non-profit area agencies located throughout NH. These agencies are committed to strengthening and supporting individuals and families within the context of their lives and within their own communities.

Area Agencies provide service coordination, benefits support, resource and referral, and transition planning.



Eligibility for Developmental Services

Region 1 – Northern Human Services

Phone: 603.447.3347 / Website: www.northernhs.org

Region 2 – Pathways of the River Valley

Phone: 603.542.8706 / Website: www.pathwaysnh.org

Region 3 – Lakes Region Community Services

Phone: 603.524.8811 / Website: www.lrcs.org

Region 4: Community Bridges

Phone: 603.225.4153 / Website: www.communitybridgesnh.org

Region 5: Monadnock Developmental Services, Inc.

Phone: 603.352.1304 / Website: www.mds-nh.org

Region 6: Gateways Community Services

Phone: 603.882.6333 / Website: www.gatewayscs.org

Region 7: The Moore Center

Phone: 603.206.2742 / Website: www.moorecenter.org

Region 8: One Sky Community Services, Inc.

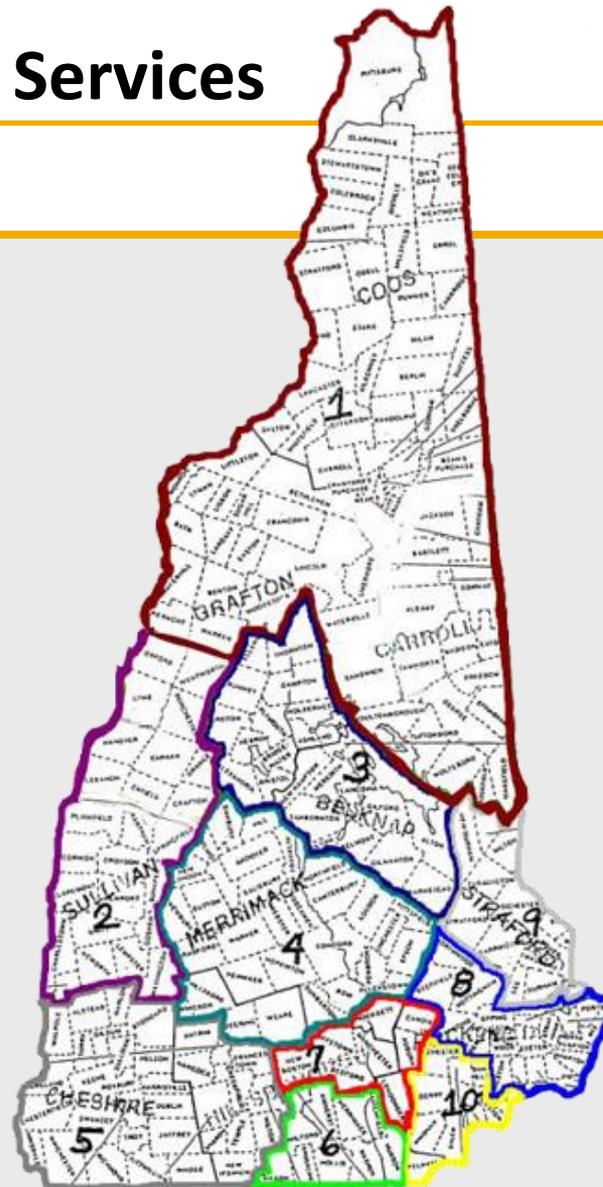
Phone: 603.436.6111 / Website: www.oneskyservices.org

Region 9: Community Partners

Phone: 603.516.9300 / Website: www.communitypartnersnh.org

Region 10: Community Crossroads

Phone: 603.893.1299 / Website: www.communitycrossroadsnh.org



Area Agency Contact List for Transition Planning

AREA AGENCIES		AREA AGENCY CONTACTS			
Region	Area Agency Name	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Email Address
Region 1	Northern Human Services	Liz	Charles	447-8010	lcharles@northernhs.org
Region 2	PathWays of the River Valley	Cory	Shomphe	443-4107	cshomphe@pathwaysnh.org
Region 3	Lakes Region Community Services	Robert	Landry	581-5109	Robert.landry@lracs.org
Region 4	Community Bridges	Courtney	Faison	225-4153	cfaison@communitybridgesnh.org
Region 5	Monadnock Developmental Services	Lynn	Yeiter	352-1304	lynny@mds.org
Region 6	Gateways Community Services	Mindy	Huckins	882-6333	mpond@gatewayscs.org
Region 7	Moore Center Services	Susan	Goddard	668-5423	Susan.Goddard@moorecenter.org
		Pam	Nordle		Pamela.nordle@moorecenter.org
Region 8	One Sky Community Services	Anthony	MacConnell	436-6111	a.macconnell@oneskyservices.org
Region 9	Community Partners	Deidre	Watson	516-9300	dwatson@communitypartnersnh.org
Region 10	Community Crossroads	Kelly	Judson	893-1299	kjudson@communitycrossroadsnh.org



When should referrals be made to an Area Agency?

Anytime you are working with a child with a developmental disability or specific learning disability it is appropriate to refer the individual to the Area Agency regardless of age.

Family Support:

Area Agencies provide Family Support Services to families. Each region provides those services slightly differently as they are overseen by a council of family members called the Family Support Advisory Council. Family Support services may include the following services but are not limited to:

Respite

Environmental Modifications

Adaptive Equipment

Adaptive Recreation

Camperships

Access to Family Events

Conferences



How does the Area Agency Support Transition?

Assistance - Area Agencies can assist individuals and their families with their rights, systems, models of support, IEP's, and referrals to resources to assist with choice and control.

Wrap Around - For individuals with high needs, Area Agencies can be part of the team to find solutions and supports to increase skills and stability.

Benefits Planning - Area Agencies can walk families through benefit applications (i.e. Medicaid, Social Security, etc.)

Funding - Area Agencies are the only entities that can apply for funding for long term supports and services upon graduation or exiting of the school system.



How does the Area Agency Support Transition?

All Area Agencies support transition planning. Each Area Agency can be working with families and school staff on these elements of transition planning:

Collaboration - Area Agencies can work as part of teams (school, mental health providers, family, friends) to ensure we are all working on the same things and complementing each other's work versus silos.

Information Sharing – Both the School and the Area Agency must have the appropriate releases in place from the individual/guardian to facilitate their collaboration

Person Centered Planning - Area Agencies can meet with the individual and their team to map out future goals and help facilitate the steps and skills needed to get there.

Community Resources - Area Agencies can direct individuals to community resources.



Transition – Funding

- Family Support Coordinators and Service Coordinators track and document when an individual needs or will need services and funds.
- As part of the transition planning process with the educational team at least by the age of 16 years old his/her name should be entered onto the Wait List.
- The Area Agency works with the family to define future services through person centered planning.
- The Area Agency provides for projected costs for each category of services requested, as well as the service start date.



NH – 171-A Statute: Funding

171-A:1-a Full Funding of Services Budget; Limits of Waiting Lists. –

I. The department of health and human services and area agencies shall provide services to eligible persons under this chapter and persons eligible for the brain injury program under RSA 137-K in a timely manner. The department and area agencies shall provide services in such a manner that:

(a) For persons in school and already eligible for services from the area agencies, funds shall be allocated to them 90 days **prior to their graduating or exiting the school system or earlier** so that any new or modified services needed are available and provided upon such school graduation or exit.

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XII/171-A/171-A-mrg.htm>



He-M 503 – Determining Eligibility

He-M 503.03 Eligibility for Services.

- Must be a resident of New Hampshire
- Been diagnosed as having a developmental disability.

Developmental Disability, as defined in RSA 171-A:2, V:

- (a) Which is attributable to an intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or a specific learning disability, or any other condition of an individual found to be closely related to an intellectual disability as it refers to general intellectual functioning or impairment in adaptive behavior or requires treatment similar to that required for persons with an intellectual disability; and
- (b) Which originates before such individual attains age 22, has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and constitutes a severe disability to such individual's ability to function normally in society."



503 Rule Revision

- There are no new requirements, just bringing in line with RSA 171-A:1-a, I
- Removed former rule language that exiting can only occur at 21
- Does not impact eligibility for DD services – only relative to funding allocation – funds are allocated 90 days prior to exiting or graduating as long as sufficient funds are made available.

He-M 503.13 Allocation of Funds.

(a) Pursuant to RSA 171-A:1-a, I, services shall be provided in such a manner that:

- (1) For individuals in school and already eligible for services from the area agencies, funds shall be allocated to them 90 days prior to their graduating or exiting the school system or earlier so that any new or modified services needed are available and provided upon such school graduation or exit;



503 Rule Revision – What does this mean?

- Neither the statute nor the waiver has ever said exiting is at 21. Area Agencies cannot tell individuals they must be 21 to receive services if they have exited the school system.
- If the volume of individuals graduating or exiting the school system increases dramatically, there may be waiting lists for funding.
- The rule does not require services to be in place 90 days prior to exiting or graduation, only the allocation of funding is required.
- Successful, joint transition planning with the schools, VR and the Area Agencies will avoid gaps in services.



Collaboration

Individual + Family + Area Agency + School + VR
= SUCCESSFUL planning and transition



Considerations

- Education is important and all individuals should take advantage of education as long as possible.
- Students/families should be well informed on what their rights are in each system, and what services are available from each system, and then able to make their own choices about which service delivery system is best.
- Families should engage with their area agency to begin the transition planning at any time based on the IEP Team decision but no later than age 14.
- Schools are required to comply with Indicator 13 which is a Federal requirement.



Considerations (continued)

- Area Agencies are required to comply with NH Statute 171-A to allocate funding when funding is made available.
- Every student has a right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).
- Special Education process needs to be followed to determine when a student is ready to exit school or graduate.



Programs – Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS)

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New Hampshire provides the majority of services with three Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 1915 (c) waivers through the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS).

Developmental Disabilities

Services include: Client Eligibility

- Typically require life long supports and services, can range from support during the day and/or at work up to 24/7 residential.
- He-M 503 defines eligibility – e.g., developmental disability, intellectual disability, autism, cerebral palsy.

Acquired Brain Disorder

Services include: Client Eligibility

- Typically require extensive life long supports and services, can range from support during the day and/or for work up to 24/7 residential.
- He-M 522 defines eligibility, e.g. traumatic brain injury, Huntington's disease. Require skilled nursing level of care or specialized residential services.

In Home Support Services (IHS)

Services include: Client Eligibility

- Personal care services for children living at home with their families.
- Children up through the age 21, eligibility defined in He-M 524.



BDS Contact List

AREA AGENCIES		BUREAU LIAISONS			
Region	Area Agency Name	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Email Address
Region 1	Northern Human Services	Abby	Conger	271-5111	Abigail.Conger@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 2	PathWays of the River Valley	Abby	Conger	271-5111	Abigail.Conger@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 3	Lakes Region Community Services	Jessica	Gorton	271-8942	Jessica.Gorton@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 4	Community Bridges	Abby	Conger	271-5111	Abigail.Conger@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 5	Monadnock Developmental Services	Jessica	Gorton	271-8942	Jessica.Gorton@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 6	Gateways Community Services	Karen	McLaughlin	271-5094	Karen.McLaughlin@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 7	Moore Center Services	Jessica	Gorton	271-8942	Jessica.Gorton@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 8	One Sky Community Services	Darlene	Ferguson	271-5032	Darlene.Ferguson@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 9	Community Partners	Karen	McLaughlin	271-5094	Karen.McLaughlin@dhhs.nh.gov
Region 10	Community Crossroads	Karen	McLaughlin	271-5094	Karen.McLaughlin@dhhs.nh.gov



Vocational Rehabilitation Contact Information

Berlin Regional Office
650 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570
603-752-2271

Concord Regional Office
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 20
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2327

Keene Regional Office
149 Emerald St., Suite T
Keene, NH 03431
603-357-0266

Manchester/Nashua Regional
Office
One Sundial Avenue, Suite 201N
Manchester, NH 03103
603-669-8733

Portsmouth Regional Office
215 Commerce Way, Suite 3
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-436-8884

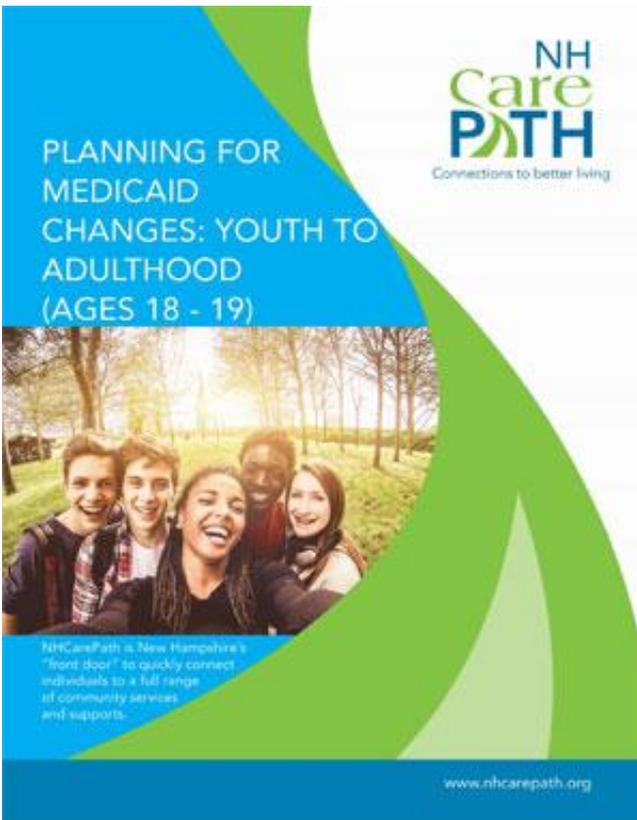
Services for Blind and Vision-
Impaired
21 S. Fruit Street
603-271-3537





Partner Tools and Resources

- Consumer Medicaid Booklets
 - Medicaid Community Mental Health Services & Supports
- Outreach/Partner Logos 
 - Materials, Partner Newsletters, Document Library
- Tools
 - Level One Screen, Referral Form, LTSS Resources and tools, FAQ
- Training
 - Substance Use Concerns, Centers for Independent Living, DD System, Mental Illness, Children and Families, Veterans, Military and their families.



Service Link

<https://www.servicelink.nh.gov/>

The screenshot shows the ServiceLink website interface. At the top, it identifies itself as an official New Hampshire government website. The main navigation menu includes links for Home, About Us, Be Aware of Medicare Fraud, Caregivers Corner, Links to Resources, Understanding Medicare, ServiceLink Locator, Publications, and Contact Us. A search bar is located in the top right. A 'Quick Links' sidebar on the right lists various services such as Assistive Technology in NH, Events and Training, Local ADRC Locator, MDS Section Q Training and Tools, Military-Veteran Population and their families websites, NHCarePath, NH Easy, No Wrong Door Federal Website, and Publications. The central banner features a 'FRAUD ALERT' stamp and a warning about genetic testing, advising users to protect themselves from people offering genetic testing and asking for their Medicare number. Below the banner is a 'Welcome' message and a link to the official website.

SMP Consumer Fraud Alert



Genetic Testing

Protect yourself from people offering genetic testing and asking for your Medicare number.

Learn more about the potential risk

search this site

Quick Links

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- ◆ Events and Training
- ◆ Local ADRC Locator
- ◆ MDS Section Q Training and Tools
- ◆ Military-Veteran Population and their families websites
- ◆ NHCarePath
- ◆ NH Easy
- ◆ No Wrong Door Federal Website
- ◆ Publications

Welcome

Official website of ServiceLink

Welcome to the ServiceLink Aging and Disability Resource Center! Your link to



NH Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

<https://www.education.nh.gov/career/vocational/>

A A A an official **NEW HAMPSHIRE** government website

 **New Hampshire Department of Education**
Serving New Hampshire's Education Community

Kelly - SAU 81

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New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation

Mission

The mission of New Hampshire Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is to assist eligible New Hampshire citizens with disabilities secure suitable employment and financial and personal independence by providing rehabilitation services.

NHVR provides services to both Individuals with Disabilities and Employers.

People with disabilities can work and take advantage of the opportunities available to the citizens of New Hampshire. Yet they face barriers that prevent them from achieving their goals. Vocational Rehabilitation assists persons with disabilities to achieve their employment goals.

Vocational Rehabilitation is a joint State/Federal program that seeks to empower people to make informed choices, build viable careers, and live more independently in the community.

The Agency is currently in an Order of Selection. For more information about what an Order of Selection is please check out the [Order of Selection Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

****Spring Director's Message**....**

Spring is on its way! Vocational Rehabilitation staff has been hard at work releasing customers with disabilities from the waitlist. Since September the agency has been working with 700 individuals that were on the waitlist. Counselors are busy helping individuals determine their best pathway to employment success.



dhhs

New Hampshire Department of HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Division for Children, Youth & Families

NH Law requires **any person** who suspects that a child under age 18 has been abused or neglected **must report** that suspicion **immediately** to DCYF. ([New Hampshire RSA 169-C:29-31](#))

To report child abuse or neglect, please call (800) 894-5533 (in-state) or (603) 271-6562

Intake lines are staffed 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays. If this is an immediate emergency, please call 911.

The Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has released its first Annual Data Book. The Data Book presents and analyzes key information on DCYF's child protection, foster and adoptive care, juvenile justice, and community and family support programs.

[DCYF Annual Data Book 2019](#)  (10/11/2019)

The Division for Children, Youth and Families manages protective programs on behalf of New Hampshire's children and youth and their families.





DHHS Events Calendar

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Program Information

- › Child Protection Services
- › Juvenile Justice Services
- › Sununu Youth Services Center
- › Adolescent Program
- › Adoption
- › Child Development
- › Clinical Services
- › Community & Family Support
- › Domestic Violence
- › Foster Care



NH Bureau of Behavioral Health (BBH)

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bbh/index.htm>

dhhs New Hampshire Department of HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Bureau of Mental Health Services

May 22, 2019

System of Care Year 3 Report and Joint Cover Letter Announcing its Release

- [Joint Cover Letter to Governor and Executive Council](#)
- [An Act to Implement a System of Care for Children's Behavioral Health in New Hampshire - Year 3 Report](#)

January 2019

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has released the [10-Year Mental Health Plan](#)

The Bureau of Mental Health Services seeks to promote respect, recovery, and full community inclusion for adults, including older adults, who experience a mental illness and children with an emotional disturbance. BBH works to ensure the provision of efficient and effective services to those citizens who are most severely and persistently disabled by mental, emotional, and behavioral dysfunction as defined by NH laws and rules. To this end, BBH has divided the entire state into community mental health regions. Each of the

search this site



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- #### Program Information
- BBH Trainings
 - Community Based Care Services
 - Community Mental Health Block Grant
 - Community Mental Health Center Reviews and Satisfaction Surveys
 - Eligibility
 - Illness Management & Recovery (IMR)
 - Information for Providers
 - Mental Health Services



NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS)

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/index.htm>



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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services

Noteworthy ...

NH's Opioid Taskforce, on behalf of the NH Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs, releases the [Status of Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder among Individuals Involved with the New Hampshire Justice System](#)  report.

The [Doorway-NH](#) initiative is now fully operational and ensures services for clinical screening and evaluation services and care coordination are no more than an hour away for any individual struggling with substance misuse or substance use disorders. This innovative model is funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) [State Opioid Response grant](#).



New Hampshire Recovery House Registry
On June 30, 2019, NH DHHS established a "New Hampshire Recovery House Registry". Registration is voluntary, however state agencies and vendors receiving state or federal funds to provide prevention or treatment services can only refer clients to recovery houses listed on the registry. Recovery house operators wishing to register, and/or individuals wishing to view the registry, can find that and other important information on

search this site 

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Program Information

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- Intervention
- Treatment
- Impaired Driving
- Recovery
- Training and Licensure
- Resources
- Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- State Plan on Alcohol and Drugs
- SAPT Block Grant



Questions?

